(c) India has not signed any Free trade Agreement in the last 2 years.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Good growth by cement industry

2754. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 207.81 million tonne cement industry in the country has witnessed a good growth despite a tumultuous financial year across most industry verticals;

(b) whether cement dispatches (including exports) for 11 months ending February, 2009 were at 162.89 million tonnes against 151.89 mt. during year ago;

(c) whether cement dispatches during past four consecutive months have seen a healthy growth; and

(d) if so, the quantum of cement production during year 2009 and what are steps being taken to improve it further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The capacity of cement industry at the end of 2008-09 was 219.17 million tonnes (large plants). The industry witnessed a growth of 7.9% during the year 2008-09.

(b) Cement dispatches (including exports) for the 11 months April, 2008 to February, 2009 was 163.05 million tonnes. The dispatches during the corresponding period of the previous year was 151.26 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) The first quarter of the financial year 2009-10 witnessed a growth of 12.4% with a production of 50.15 million tonnes. With the thrust being given by the Government for the development of infrastructure, housing and rural connectivity, the cement industry is likely to witness a growth of around 9% during the year 2009-10.

Incentive to revive industrial downturns

2755. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is planning to shell out incentives to revive industrial downturns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how will it specifically benefit manufacturers and assist in industrial revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Several measures/ initiatives have been taken by the Government to insulate the domestic industry from the impact of global recession and stimulate domestic demand.

The measures to stimulate domestic demand inter-alia include reduction in ad valorem CENVAT duty, incentives to the housing sector with a view to give a boost to affordable housing, and sector specific initiatives. For automobile sector an accelerated depreciation of 50% on commercial

vehicles was announced and assistance to the States under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) provided for purchase of buses for urban transport system.

Further, a set of measures were announced for enhancing the flow of funds to the MSE sector.

The various measures to support exports include interest subvention of 2% for pre & post shipment export credit for identified labour intensive industries, additional allocation for export intensive schemes, additional funds towards providing guarantee by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporations (ECGC) and enhancements of duty draw back benefits on certain identified exportable items.

In addition, RBI has taken a number of steps to reduce the cost of credit and improve liquidity for the industry such as reduction of the Repo rates, reverse Repo rates, Cash reserve ratio etc.

As a consequence of various measures taken by the Government, there are early signs of recovery of the industrial sector. The index of industrial production which registered a negative growth rate of (-) 0.7% and (-) 0.8% in February and March 2009 respectively has improved to 1.4% in April, 2009 and further to 2.7 % in May, 2009.

Farmers displaced by SEZs

2756. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to carry out a survey of all farmers displaced by SEZs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Land is a State subject. Land for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments. State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for SEZs, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary single crop agricultural land could be acquired for the SEZs. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ. The Board of Approval for SEZs only considers those proposals, which have been duly recommended by the State Government. Further, pursuant to the decision of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) in its meeting held on 5th April, 2007, the State Governments have been informed on 15th June, 2007 that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007. As regards rehabilitation of displaced persons, State Governments have their own policies and procedures to deal with.

Fate of WTO negotiations

2757. SHRI RAM CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the fate of WTO negotiations and whether USA and European Countries have agreed to reduce their agriculture subsidy?